

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-39 (Cancelled).

40. (New) A hydrostatic transaxle apparatus, comprising:
a housing filled therein with fluid so as to serve as a fluid sump;
an axle disposed in said housing;
a gear disposed centered on said axle in said housing;
a hydraulic pump disposed in said housing, said hydraulic pump having a pump shaft for receiving power from a prime mover; and
a hydraulic motor disposed in said housing to be fluidly connected to said hydraulic pump, said hydraulic motor having a motor shaft drivingly connected to said gear so as to transmit torque of said motor shaft to said axle through said gear,
wherein a rotary axis of said pump shaft and a rotary axis of said motor shaft are disposed on one side of said axle and substantially perpendicular to a rotary axis of said axle, and
wherein, when said axle being axially viewed, said rotary axis of said pump shaft and said rotary axis of said motor shaft are disposed nearer than an outer periphery of said gear.
41. (New) A hydrostatic transaxle apparatus, comprising:
a housing filled therein with fluid so as to serve as a fluid sump;
an axle disposed in said housing;
an intermediate shaft disposed in said housing in parallel to said axle;
a deceleration gear train disposed in said housing so as to drivingly connect said intermediate shaft to said axle;
a hydraulic pump disposed in said housing, said hydraulic pump having a pump shaft for receiving power from a prime mover, and said hydraulic pump having a control arm for adjusting capacity of said hydraulic pump; and
a hydraulic motor disposed in said housing to be fluidly connected to said hydraulic pump, said hydraulic motor having a motor shaft drivingly connected to said intermediate shaft,

wherein said pump shaft and said motor shaft are disposed above and below on one side of said axle and substantially perpendicular to said axle, and

wherein said control arm and said deceleration gear train are distributed between opposite sides of said axle with respect to said pump shaft in the longitudinal direction of said axle.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.